

WASHINGTON LETTER.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, July 4.
A Congressional crisis is on. The unmistakable jingle of silver again threatens to drown for a time all other sound. The silver men in the Senate got the best of their opponents when they secured unanimous consent to the taking of a vote on the Free-Coinage Bill, and again when they defeated the attempt to have that unanimous consent set aside because it was obtained during the absence of some of the anti-silver Senators, and their victory was complete when, by a vote of 29 to 25, the Stewart-Free-Coinage Bill was passed. This all places the owner of silver bullion on the same footing as the owner of gold bullion, as far as coinage rights are concerned; it repeals the present silver law and directs the Secretary of the Treasury to have coined into silver dollars all of the silver bullion in the Treasury purchased with silver or coin certificates. This action of the Senate has upset all the calculations of the politicians who had thought the silver question nicely shelved until next winter. There is much doubt about what the House will do. If the bill goes to the tail of the calendar and there awaits its turn it will not be heard of again before the middle of the next session, but it is possible for the Committee on Rules to give it an early chance, and Senators Stewart, Morgan, and others are urging the silver men in the House to compel the Committee to do this by tying up the appropriation bills until it is done. The tying-up process is a very easy matter under the present rules, but the anti-silver men say that even if the Committee on Rules report a day and a closure vote they can defeat the bill by breaking a quorum, without which it cannot be passed. When this fight begins in the House there is no telling where it will end, as both sides appear determined to resort to every possible parliamentary method of blocking the other. The chances, however, favor the final passage of the bill.

Ex-Speaker Reed, who is generally supposed to find it difficult to decide whether he dislikes the Democratic or the Republican national ticket the most, says it looks to him as though the Republicans were trying to elect the Democratic ticket, and the Democrats the Republican ticket. Notwithstanding his opinion of the old party tickets there is no probability that Mr. Reed will support the People's Party ticket, at least not this year.

It is semi-officially stated that President Harrison has decided that three of the five conferees on the part of the United States at the International Monetary Conference shall be Republicans and two Democrats, and that the following gentlemen have been selected: Senator Allison, Senator Jones of Nevada, and H. W. Cannon of New York (Republicans); and Senator Carlisle and Gen. Francis A. Walker of Massachusetts (Democrats). There is a possibility that Senator Carlisle may not serve, and that either Senator Daniel of Virginia or Judge Lambert Tree of Illinois may take his place. If the first five act there will be only one out and out free-coinage man—Jones; but if Senator Daniel takes Carlisle's place there will be two.

The House Post-office Committee has decided that there is no foundation for the charges made against Mr. Wannamaker in connection with the erection of an experimental pneumatic tube to be used by the Philadelphia Post-office and one of its branch offices. Mr. Wannamaker's friends are much pleased at this action of the Committee, a majority of which are his political opponents.

A second message has been sent to Congress by President Harrison asking for authority to retaliate upon the owners of Canadian vessels. This indicates that Mr. Harrison wishes to hurry Congress in its action upon the joint resolution introduced by Senator Davis, which has already been favorably reported to the Senate.

The figures have been footed up for the total payments under the sugar bounty clause of the McKinley tariff law for one year ending June 30, '92. The whole amount paid was \$7,330,046, of which \$7,065,284 was paid on cane sugar, \$240,098 on beet sugar, and \$2,466 on maple sugar. Louisiana planters got \$6,870,506 of this money.

Congress took a holiday to-day, but members of the House are not enjoying themselves much; they are working "tooth and toe-nail," as the saying is, to get the absent members back in time to take part in the silver fight. An attempt is also being made to get Mr. Cleveland to put in his own against free coinage, but if he could hear the threats of members of his party from the South he would probably deem it wisdom to keep out of it.

Having two Secretary Posters in the Cabinet is somewhat confusing at times, particularly to newspaper writers, and already the expedient of always writing "Secretary Charles Foster," when the Secretary of the Treasury is referred to, has been adopted. The appointment of Secretary of State Foster is regarded as temporary, that is, until the end of the present Administration. Should Mr. Harrison be re-elected there will be a general reorganization of the Cabinet.

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